

**DECLARATION**

I, Jeffrey B. Hile, declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 719 Wexford-Bayne Road, Wexford, PA 15090; and that my post office address is the same as my residence address; and that I have reviewed the foregoing specification and claims, understand the contents thereof, and I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the invention in SELF-ADJUSTING LOCKING PLIERS, and in the subject matter which is described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

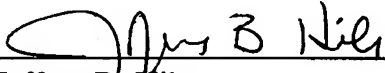
And I hereby appoint Floyd B. Carothers, Registration No. 24,252, and Paul A. Beck, Registration No. 22,289, operating under the firm name of CAROTHERS AND CAROTHERS, Registration No. 22,238, or their duly appointed associate, their attorneys with full power of substitution, revocation and addition, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith. It is requested that all correspondence be directed to CAROTHERS AND CAROTHERS, 445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Suite 500, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Wherefore, I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims and I hereby subscribe

my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney and this petition.

The undersigned petitioner declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge is true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that those statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: November 4, 2003

By:   
Jeffrey B. Hile

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